

**Statement on Democratic Republic of Congo's Article 5 Implementation, delivered by Mine
Action Review
Intersessional Meetings, 22–24 June 2021**

- Mine Action review is disappointed that the Democratic Republic of Congo has yet to submit an extension request to extend its Article 5 deadline and is not present at these intersessionals meeting to present its Extension Request.

As DRC is not on track to complete clearance by its current deadline of 1 July 2022, it *must* submit an extension request before 19MSP, in order to remain in compliance with the treaty.

We urge the DRC to submit the extension request as soon as possible, so that it can be properly considered by the Committee on Article on Article 5 and by States Parties and expert organisations, prior to a 19MSP.

- Mine Action Review appreciates that the final stages in achieving completion of clearance, can sometimes be the most challenging. We know that many of the remaining mined areas are in remote areas, causing challenges and adding to the costs of clearance. We also understand that persistent insecurity and conflict continues to impact the DRC.
- Land release operations have also been hampered by poor data and weak coordination, but the baseline of mined area has now been reduced to a size that can be addressed in a short period, with the right political will, planning and coordination, and sufficient funding.
- The DRC must develop a concrete completion plan which prioritises and specifically targets the remaining mined areas, rather than areas only containing other explosive remnants of war. It should ensure it has sufficient capacity and secures sufficient funding to implement the plan within the extension period it requests.
- The DRC should also ensure it puts in place sustainable national capacity for tackling residual mine contamination identified after completion.
- Lastly, the DRC should always submit annual Article 7 reports, to keep States Parties informed on its implementation. The DRC did not submit an Article 7 report last year and has yet to submit one this year.
- We hope that the DRC's Extension Request is its last and that it receives the support needed to cross the completion line.

Thank you.